FREMONT-WINEMA NATIONAL FOREST
Paisley, Silver Lake, Bly and Chiloquin Ranger Districts
2014 End-of-Season Monitoring Report

2014 End-of-Season monitoring results on the Foster Butte, Sycan, Riverbeds, Meryl Creek, Silver Dollar, and Long Creek allotments.

Allotment-Pasture-Key Area	Residual Greenline Stubble Height		Utilization		
	Allowable Use	Actual Use	Allowable Use		Actual Use
			Floodplain	Dry Meadow	
Foster Butte- Hagar- Auger Creek 064	N/A	N/A	45%	55%	20% OE
Foster Butte- Thompson- Silver Creek	N/A	N/A	45%	55%	40% UC
Foster Butte- Silver Creek- Indian Flat	N/A	N/A	45%	55%	30% OE
Foster Butte- Silver Creek- Coyote Creek	N/A	N/A	0% - 20%	0% - 20%	No Data
Foster Butte- Dead Indian- Sherlock Dipping Vat	N/A	8"	45%	55%	35% OE
Foster Butte- Foster- Toolbox	N/A	N/A	45%	55%	20% UC
Foster Butte- Sycan- Chocktoot Spring	6"	No Data	45%	55%	53% UC
Sycan- Sycan- T Springs	N/A	N/A	40%	50%	22% UC
Sycan- Sycan- Long Creek	5"	6"	40%	50%	40% OE
Long Creek- Long Creek- Long Creek	N/A	N/A	45%	55%	<10% OE
Riverbeds-Riverbeds- Shake Creek Meadow (136 Rd)	N/A	N/A	45%	55%	14% UC
Silver Dollar- East-Pot hole	5"	No Data	40%	55%	No Data

UC= utilization cage measured by weight; OE = Ocular Estimate; N/A= Not Applicable

Foster Butte Allotment

Hagar Pasture- This pasture was assessed for end of season utilization on September 9th. Ocular estimate of use at Auger Creek was approximately 20% which was within allowable use levels in this pasture.

Thompson Pasture- This pasture was assessed for end of season utilization on September 9th. The cage along Silver Creek measured 40% by weight which is within allowable use levels for this pasture.

Silver Creek Pasture- This pasture was assessed for end of season utilization on September 9th at the Indian Flat cage. The cage was knocked over, but ocular estimation of use was 30% which is within allowable use levels for this pasture. The Coyote Creek key area was not visited in 2014.

Dead Indian Pasture- End of season measurements were collected at Sherlock Dipping Vat on September 9th. Residual greenline stubble height averaged eight inches and utilization was ocularly estimated at 35%. Both of these measures are within allowable use levels for this pasture. Consider placing a utilization cage at this site to measure use in the meadow.

Foster Pasture- This pasture was assessed for end of season utilization on September 9th. The cage at Toolbox Spring measured 20% by weight which is within allowable use levels for this pasture.

Sycan Pasture- This pasture was visited on September 9th but not assessed for use because livestock were still present. End of season utilization was measured at Chocktoot Spring key area on October 29th and measured 53 % by weight. This measure is within allowable use levels for this pasture.

Sycan Allotment

Data was collected in the Long Creek key area on September 10th and resulted in an average residual greenline stubble height of six inches and meadow utilization was 40% through ocular estimation.

The T-Springs key area was visited on September 10th and measured 22% by weight. All of these measurements are within allowable use levels for this allotment.

Riverbeds Allotment

This allotment was assessed for use on September 10th at the Shake Creek Meadow utilization cage. Use was measured by weight at 14% which is within allowable use for this allotment.

Long Creek Allotment

This allotment was assessed for use on September 10th at the Long Creek Meadow using ocular estimate. Use was estimated at less than 10%. Consider establishing a utilization cage at this site for future measurement of use (completed March 12th).

Meryl Creek Allotment

This allotment was not assessed for use in 2013. Consider establishing a monitoring site on this allotment.

Silver Dollar

This utilization cage in Pot Hole Draw was not assessed for use in 2014.

Summary:

All allotments where assessments were completed have met all applicable Forest Plan Standards for livestock grazing management during the 2014 grazing season. Management activities across the allotment are good and under the continued management practices should continue to meet current Forest Plan standards into the future.

This use was heavier than in recent years, most likely due to prolonged drought, but all allowable use levels within the Forest Plan and consultation documents were met. Photos, inspection notes, phone conversation records and correspondence are filed as part of the permit case file and allotment files at the Paisley Ranger District.

Recommendations:

At this time there are no changes needed to these allotments. Monitoring efforts for future Endangered Species Act consultation will occur during the 2015 grazing season. Please contact your range technician or rangeland management specialist to arrange cooperative monitoring if interested. Permittees are welcome and encouraged to participate in future Interagency Field Reviews associated with listed fish habitat on your allotments. These generally occur at the end of the grazing season and allotments visited vary by year.

Regrowth of vegetation should not be relied upon to meet allowable use levels at the end of the growing season as there is no guarantee of regrowth, especially during prolonged drought conditions.

Cooperative monitoring of allotments has begun and an agreement should be put in place for the 2015 grazing season.

Should drought conditions persist in the 2015 grazing season, I recommend reductions in numbers, season, or implementation of practices such as hauling water to allotments to reduce impacts and continue to meet allowable use levels in your permit and consultation documents.

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